

# The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1912.

## SAVING MEN BY PUNISHMENT.

The human element in modern penology was the impressive fact gathered from the wide discussion of crime and punishment by the Governors at their first session yesterday. The chief executives of many States brought vivid personal testimony of the need for treating law-breakers as men, and not as beasts. The salvage of valuable human life to be gained for society by wise prison methods was the convincing argument advanced by the men who, in their offices, come into the closest touch with the problem of adjusting the rights of law to the claims of mercy. Each Governor has faced the solemn responsibility of acting as judge upon criminals. The power of pardon has driven each of them into the most serious consideration of what can be done to save erring men from becoming waste. Almost unanimously they declared against the spirit of vengeance, against the cruelty of old prison methods, and against the possibility of reducing crime or building a finer civilization on merely negative punishment.

The Governor of Colorado struck the keynote of modern penal ideals in his practical outline of the parole system so successfully inaugurated in his State. Its substance is that criminals are still men in whom are the elements of honor and good citizenship. They are trusted and taught to watch themselves. They are used in public work under healthful outdoor conditions, and they are given the right to reduce their terms by work and obedience. The results have amply justified the experiment. Men who once would have been turned out into the world with no chance for redemption from their past sins are now strengthened in body and character, so that they become useful members of society—assets to the State instead of perpetual charges.

The basic principle of the new system is that the punishment be adjusted to the case. As Governor Hadley admirably expressed it, "The punishment is fitted to the criminal, and not to an abstract idea of his crime." It should be just, equitably applied, and certain, but it should also be dependent upon the nature of the individual and his powers of rehabilitation. The separation of youths and first offenders from the contamination of hardened criminals, the parole and the indeterminate sentence, the healing influence of work, and the proper regulation of mental and physical disease, are all employed to break the vicious habit and substitute normal, honest tendencies.

## RAILROADS AND FARMS.

The extent of the efforts of the railroads of the United States to encourage farming is evidence in a late bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Of the total of 248,992 miles of road operated in 1910 in this country, exclusive of Alaska and the inland possessions, 191,448 miles, or 76.9 per cent, were operated by companies making organized efforts to increase the number of farmers, or to promote agricultural education. Of the total land area of the nation, 89.2 per cent is in counties penetrated by the railroads doing this work. Of the total farm area of this country, 82.8 per cent is in counties through which these roads run; of the total number of farms, 85.2 per cent are in such counties.

Of course, the railroads have undertaken this work primarily for their own benefit. Farms mean traffic to the carriers, and the greater the productivity of the farms the greater the profit of the railroads. The result, however, will benefit the nation. Few of the roads now have land of their own for sale, although \$13,300,000 acres were granted by Congress for railroad purposes up to June 28, 1911. Every State is included in the work, and it would be hard for an intending settler to select a region as to the farming possibilities of which the railroad could inform him.

## THE INSURANCE OF BANKING LIABILITIES.

The insurance of banking liabilities has been a favorite proposal of many stalwarts, but more or less careless, bank reformers. Several years ago this idea received a partial and unsuccessful application in the State of Oklahoma in a bill providing for the guarantee of bank deposits. It is now rumored that the subcommittee of the Banking and Currency Committee of the national House of Representatives is contemplating legislation which would insure the payment of all banking liabilities by a fund to be created

and maintained through assessments levied upon all national banks.

Protection against fire and other contingencies is an indispensable condition of all business undertakings at the present time. Without this protection a wide range of commercial and industrial enterprises would be impossible. These forms of insurance, however, are not analogous to, and should not be confused with, a protective fund for banking liabilities. A merchant who wishes to insure his establishment against the possibility of a loss by fire, or his cargo of goods against the dangers of ocean transportation, applies to a company which deals in these classes of risks. Before protection is sold to the merchant his place of business or his vessel is carefully examined, his own record as a business man is investigated, and if his store, his vessel, or his own methods are found to be in accord with the standards of the insurance company, the policy is issued to him, and it remains in force only so long as its conditions are fulfilled. If the clerks in his store smoke cigarettes, or if his vessel is used to carry petroleum, his policies lapse.

In the case of banking insurance, however, a national bank under the proposed scheme, as soon as it received its charter and began business, would automatically have all of its liabilities insured through the collective fund created for that purpose. As a consequence, a premium would be placed upon inefficiency and looseness in banking methods. A depositor now seeks a banking institution which has acquired a reputation for safety through sound and conservative management. If the liabilities of all national banks were protected, however, the depositor would not find it necessary to use any care in selecting a bank in which to place his funds. His accumulations would be as safe in one institution as another. As a consequence, the bank which was well managed would not receive any reward for its efficiency, and would perhaps attract less business than one improperly conducted.

As a matter of fact, the best method for insuring banking liabilities would be to make the law relative to examinations more stringent without removing the existing incentive to efficient and sound management. The insurance of liabilities by a fund, created through legislative enactment, would add to the present weaknesses of the national banking system, and would drive our best bankers from the business. Such insurance, if desirable, should not be undertaken by the government, but should be left to private initiative.

## TO THE PEOPLE OF RICHMOND.

The representatives of the people of Richmond have chosen to grant a franchise for the use of the streets to a company that will pay for this gift the sum of \$10. The franchise is faulty in form, guarantees no return of service, and will inevitably add to the burden to be paid by the average citizen. Unless the Mayor refuses to approve this splendid charity the community will pay the price. For fifteen years the city will be learning what other cities have already paid heavily for learning.

Therefore, The Times-Dispatch desires now to ask the closest scrutiny of all the results of this grant. For months this paper has conducted a campaign of education, endeavoring to impress upon its readers and upon the branches of the Council that fundamental economic laws are violated by the institution of competition in a field of public service where competition cannot exist. The proof of this position, we firmly believe, will be brought home to the people by costly experience. What the arguments from logic, from statistics and from outside comparisons has not been able to prove, the concrete evidence of fact under local conditions will show. This franchise right is not settled. None of the elements of our contention have changed one jot or tittle. If the franchise is finally granted, we propose to use its workings to establish the soundness of our prediction. We shall say "I told you so" to the people and to the authorities, but in any spirit of petty vindication, but in the sincere hope that the lessons of this experience may prevent any further violation of fundamental laws.

## NOT A 'MINORITY' PRESIDENT.

To recognize its own claim, "The only Republican paper in New York" during the presidential campaign—i.e., the only Taft paper—the Tribune is still very sore over the result, and would save its wounds by continuing to insist that Woodrow Wilson will be a "minority President." Its prescription is also being used by other Republican papers, both "regular" and "progressive," which were left a little scarred by the defeat of their candidates. The Tribune's argument and figures—or rather jangling with figures—are misleading. They illustrate that half a truth is frequently worse than the direct opposite of truth.

From the way the Tribune puts it—compounds its rage—the impression is made, or sought to be made, on the public mind that Wilson received a lower vote than either of the other principal candidates, and that he will go into the White House under the altogether "exceptional conditions" of not having a clear majority of the popular vote over all of his opponents.

It is true that the vote of Roosevelt and Taft, to say nothing of that of Debs and Chas. E. Smith, total a heavy majority against Wilson; but, on the other hand, it is equally true, and a significant exemplification of the popular will, that Wilson polled by far the highest vote among all the candidates. He received more than 2,200,000 votes

in excess of Roosevelt, and about 2,700,000 in excess of Taft.

As for the question of the President-elect's taking office under the "exceptional conditions" of failure of a popular majority over all, the Philadelphia Bulletin effectually disposes of that fallacious proposition, as follows: "In this respect, however, he (Wilson) is in the same position as John Quincy Adams, Zachary Taylor, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln and other Presidents were in a notable or considerable degree, and as some were in a minor degree. It has been seldom that any President has had a majority over all his competitors, outside of the time of the great Republican preponderance in recent years; and there have been even two Presidents within the memory of living men who actually had a lower popular vote than the principal candidate that failed of election—Hayes and Harrison."

Continuing, our Philadelphia contemporary, after pointing out that Woodrow Wilson will not be a "minority President" in the last named sense, and taking the entirely defensible position that only in that sense ought the term to be used, says: "It would be better, as regards the public impression or understanding of it, to say that he will be a 'plurality President,' although in that respect the vote which he polled is higher in its percentage of the whole than has ever been given to any of the Presidents, with but one exception, who have been thus elected." The discussion is academic, of course, Mr. Wilson has been "elected," and his election will be confirmed in due form when the Electoral College meets. He will take his seat March 4 next and administer the affairs of the country as its chief magistrate for four years if he lives. Popular majority or no popular majority, these facts cannot be reversed. They are written into the future history of the nation. Yet the discussion is none the less timely and important. It is these in order to keep the record straight and making it clear, thereby removing any popular misapprehension touching the vast element of American people whose doctrines, principles and wishes, as opposed to both Rooseveltism and Taftism, Woodrow Wilson represents, and is charged with vindicating. It is timely and important in its disclosure of the great unanimity of sentiment in favor of the policies the Democratic party made the paramount issues of the campaign as against the policies each of the other chief parties stood for and advocated. This unanimity is a mandate that there be legislation which will carry out the policies to which the victorious party and the President-elect are committed.

## THE LAW AS A CAUSE OF CRIME.

The law itself is a cause of crime. Upon that point most of the speakers touched in the discussion yesterday of penology at the Governors' Conference. In several of its phases our system of administering justice was indicted as a contributing factor to the alarming crime record of this country. The old, old problem of the law's delay is one which the people of the United States most need to solve.

The remedy will be reached when justice is administered "with certainty and celerity," to quote Governor O'Neal, of Alabama, a lawyer whose acquaintance caused him, as chief executive of his State, to recommend and secure legislation which has effected law reform and reduced lawlessness and crime. Our tortuous system of technicalities causes the law to move slowly, where it should move rapidly. As it is, the system that we are using was devised in past ages, and has suffered little alteration since. Our jury system is not what it ought to be—it puts a premium upon ignorance and penalizes intelligence. Our habit of allowing appeals to wait months and years before they can be heard and determined often lets the guilty escape through some technical loophole, and encourages the criminally bent to believe that if they sin against society, that same society will so delay disposition of them that they can go free. The records show that such evasions of punishment are alarmingly frequent. It is the justice that is swift that is terrible. That which is long delayed has little deterrent value.

So that he could end lynch law in Alabama, Governor O'Neal secured the passage of law through which he is enabled to cause any sheriff who fails to do his duty to be brought instantly before the State Supreme Court for impeachment proceedings. In such a way, the officer is not tried by his neighbors, but by an impartial tribunal. Only one sheriff has been impeached in Alabama under the law, but his case was enough. There has been no more taking of prisoners from the sheriff's custody to be lynched. It seems to us that the principle might be applied to all city and county officers who fail to do their duty, and who do not fear punishment because they know that local forces will not convict them. If an officer violates his trust, he ought to be removed at once.

The Tennessee Society of New York City has gained fame by having a "speechless dinner." The sole remarks were thrown on a screen from a lantern. The regular form was followed in serving the pint, however.

The true name for a general European war would be international suicide.

The reason basketball is not a more popular game is that it is so hard to break a collar-bone playing it.

Our advice to the Greeks is to let the war end and go back to turning out Olympic games.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

### Old Love Letters.

There's one thing makes me hoppin' mad,  
 There's nothin' else that's quite so bad,  
 Or makes me feel more like a cad,  
 In this world I opine,  
 Then when my wife starts in to quote,  
 And with a knowing eye does gloat  
 Upon the guff that once I wrote—  
 Those old love notes of mine.

She's got 'em saved up, every one,  
 And when the family row's begun,  
 She starts right in and has her fun,  
 'Till every one is read,  
 She says: "Now sit right still, my dear,  
 I know you're dying just to hear  
 Those things you wrote to me the year  
 Before we two were wed."

She says: "Now this one will please you,  
 You wrote it back in 'ninety-two.  
 Now, listen, please, 'till I get through,  
 I was your 'angel' then.  
 It says: 'Oh, listen to my cry;  
 I'm always happy when you're nigh,  
 A smile from you and I could die.  
 The envy of all men.'"

And then she reads a lot of guff  
 Of silly mollycoddle stuff,  
 I must have hung an awful bluff,  
 When I a-courted went.  
 The oogle-goggle talk is there,  
 The worst I've heard most anywhere,  
 She throws it at me when I dare  
 To give my feelings vent.

In spite of all that I can do,  
 She reads: "Oo's lovely dove is oo!"  
 Gee whizz, it makes me sick all through,  
 And makes my woe increase.  
 Here's my advice to all young men,  
 It's right to woo and win, but then  
 Don't do it with a fountain pen,  
 If you would live in peace.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.  
 William Tibbitts took out some life insurance the other day, and now Mrs. Tibbitts says he will probably keep on living just for spite, if William expects to die he had better take out fire insurance.

Mrs. Anson Frisby got a letter from Tonawanda, N. Y., day before yesterday, and now polite society is on the qui vive, for it is expected she is going to get a Morris chair or something from a soap-house. A woman who marries a poet generally takes him for better or for verse.

Hank Tommas says no wonder they call 'em highballs. A fellow can't get one for less than 15 cents.  
 Anson Frisby has had inconsistent lights put in his house.

Miss Amy Pringle, one of our most attractive brunettes, has returned from the city, and she is a blonde this time.  
 T. Egbert Peavey's patent leather shoes is all cracked. I guess the patent has expired. Anson Butte's roan mare has the epizootic at this writing, and he has to borrow a horse to help out on the horse on busy days.  
 The old blue laws says a man shall not kiss his wife on Sunday, but, by gravity, what Hickeyville needs is a law to prevent a man kissing some other fellow's wife. Grandma Perkins still hangs on, and may recover sufficient to do her spring plowin'.  
 The Clarion are going to run a beauty contest, and the handsome lady gets a patent wringer. Old maids and grass widows not allowed. It is thought that Miss Maudie Bibbins, the new trimmer at the millinery parlors, will get the prize, as Elmer Jones has already bought \$3 worth of tickets.  
 A strained nurse from Chicago has come to take of Grandma Pringle. This is good weather for planting. Four funerals since Sunday.

### The Man Worth While.

When you have seven millions,  
 And lead the cottons,  
 And have fifteen automobiles,  
 And live in a mansion  
 With room for expansion,  
 And know how true luxury feels;  
 When you're like J. P. Morgan,  
 And have a pipe organ,  
 To play during all of your meals,  
 When you're robust and healthy,  
 And wondrously wealthy,  
 And not chained to any man's wheels—  
 You may be optimistic and grin like a cat,  
 But you don't deserve any credit for that.

When you're workin' like thunder,  
 To find enough plunder,  
 To feed seven kids and a wife,  
 When the loan men all haunt you,  
 And creditors tempt you,  
 And you are sick of the strife,  
 When you have to hustle  
 And bustle and tussle,  
 And high cost of living is rife;  
 When your pay goes for fuel  
 And codden and gruel,  
 And there's no soft spot in your life—  
 When things can go that way and you can still smile,  
 I say you're a man who is strictly worth while.

## Voice of the People

Let the Verdict Stand.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir: A great deal has been written and said in regard to commutation of Claude Allen's sentence to life imprisonment, and I would ask the petitioners who have appealed to the

## Abe Martin



Mrs. Tibbitts' niece and her husband have finally split up. She gifts the custody of the children to the lawyers at her side. The temptation to talk too much seems to be even greater than to talk too much.

## THE SYMPATHETIC COAL DEALER AND THE MAN WHO HAD TO HAVE A TON OF COAL.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



"Oh, it breaks my heart to hear that your children are suffering and if I had any coal to spare I'd let you have it."



"Oh, your sad story overwhelms me with grief and I wish to express my deep sympathy."



"I'll send the coal right down. If you need any more just let me know."



"I'll send the coal right down. If you need any more just let me know."

Governor for executive clemency how they can demonstrate their great humane sentiment by trying to save the life of the son and at the same time fail to take into consideration the fact that the father is under the same sentence as the son?

Humanity is not partial, and, in my opinion, if the son is saved from the electric chair the father should be also. The life of the father is as sweet to him as is that of the son, and the salvation of his soul is just as important in the sight of God. I would not sign a petition for life imprisonment nor electrocution for the simple reason that I believe the decision of the court is right and just in every sense of the word, and, besides, I have too much confidence in our Governor's ability, sense of honor, and a firm belief in justice to ever sense of the word would go wrong in the Allen's case.

It seems to me that it shows a lack of confidence in our Chief Executive that the petitioners should try to influence him against his honest convictions in dealing with this case according to the laws of this State, and the verdict of the higher and lower courts. He was elected to the office of Governor by the people of the State, and a few hundred names signed to a petition for clemency does not vote the sentiment of the whole population of the State by any means.

If the voters of this Commonwealth elected the Hon. William Hodges Mann Governor they must have had the confidence in his ability, his high sense of honor and integrity, or they would not have elected him to see all the laws of the State and decisions of the courts properly executed.

Then shall not kill! According to the divine law, no man has a right to be justifiable in killing another, and the law of God says "Whoever sheddeth man's blood, by man his blood must be shed," and yet some who claim to be ministers are trying to go beyond this law to save one who has committed, without any just cause a most terrible crime. My verdict is, let the law be carried out.

C. H. BUCHANAN.

Caroline County.

### The Chair for Both.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir:—There has been much said for and against the two criminals awaiting now sit in the death-house awaiting the day when they will receive the just reward for their complicity in the most brutal murder in the annals of Virginia history, so allow me to say a few words.

The principal reason assigned by their sympathizers for their commutation of the act was the existence of political differences between the "victims" and the victims. This seems to me a very slim reason for commutation of a crime of so much importance and for not convicting the perpetrators of it. Political difference, however severe, is not excuse for murder. For instance, would Mr. Roosevelt be justified in effecting the murder of Mr. Wilson, and then be freed on introduction of evidence showing that he was at political differences with the said Mr. Wilson, and that Mr. Wilson defeated him in a campaign? Surely not.

Then self-defense is claimed as another motive. Who really shot in self-defense? I say that Dexter God did, defense? He handled his gun in a most praiseworthy manner. He shot in self-defense and in defense of the law and of his fellow court officers, who were so brutally shot down by these ruffians. Sheriff Webb fell gloriously defending the law, and the law which he was pledged to protect. Commonwealth's Attorney Foster fell upholding the law which he honored and loved, and Judge Masie fell administering justice to those whom justice demanded should be punished. So let the guilty one in such crime suffer the extreme punishment of the law in partial reparation for the awful wrong they have committed.

Again, it is said that Claude Allen shot to defend his father. Would his father have needed defense had he yielded to the demands of justice—had he not been a leader of a conspiracy against the law? Did he not declare vengeance against anything pertaining to the law? Then when the law took him in hand and administered justice, he led an attack upon the court officers, thus making himself "particeps criminis" in one of the blackest crimes on the pages of Virginia history. Still, was Claude right in shooting? No. He is as guilty of these poor men's blood as his father, and let him suffer the same punishment.

In conclusion, I say again, let the Allen's die. Do not pardon them, but let them be electrocuted. The Bible plainly says: "With the same measure that ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

LAURIE COLLINS GREEN.  
 Surry Courthouse.

His Father's Voice.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir:—We have no sympathy or patience with such lawlessness, but we should consider what influence and power the older men, and especially the father, had upon the action of the boy—his father evidently had told him what he was going to do, and desired the assistance, and more likely compelled his participation in the awful crime.

We have no patience with the cry of shooting in defense of his father, for we believe it was all arranged beforehand what was done on that fatal day; but we do think that the strong influence of the hard-hearted and determined father, either by persuasion or command, influenced the will of the young Allen to go into this affair. Most any son would under the above conditions, follow the lead of a so strong-willed parent.

He probably had so much faith and confidence in the father that he did not realize the awful deed that he was committing. In view of these conditions, spare his life and imprison him, to preserve life.

C. R. SANDERSON.

Against Capital Punishment.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir:—We cheerfully grant that most murder cases are attended by hysteria, but we would say that there are hundreds of reasonable men without hysterical tendencies who hold capital punishment as a judicial murder. In our opinion, even so-called hysterical petitions to save the lives of murderers are but expressions in perhaps an unwise and clumsy way of the instinctive law of nature to preserve life.

Some of the States of the Union have abolished capital punishment, and we believe that the same forces which ended it in those States will finally triumph in all. We are under the impression that crime is no more prevalent in States where capital punishment is out of existence than it is in States where it exists. Crimes being those where the perpetrator is in the heat of passion, and in the calm of reason makes it unlikely that the perpetrator would be restrained at all by the thought of punishment, and if he did remember and committed the deed anyhow, then it would seem to be proof conclusive that the thought of the punishment of death could not deter him.

If murderers were sentenced to life imprisonment, they could be made useful to the State and to society, whether they killed or not, the State, having the use of their services, could also pay them something, which could go

to the support of their families that might otherwise have to be supported by the State.

If our sturdy men of the mountains, nearly all of whom are of Anglo-Saxon stock, were taught instead of killed, we believe they would become good citizens, and especially better than the hordes which the United States is daily admitting to become the ancestors of our future generations.

Claude Allen undoubtedly disobeyed the law, but it is a question whether many young men of much better training and characters would not have taken sides with their fathers during such heat. We would punish him, but we would preserve his life, and because we do not believe that he merits death, we would add that we are not hysterical, but perhaps unwise enough to declare ourselves opposed to a popular law, thereby winning the name perhaps of heretic.

"Let him without sin amongst you cast the first stone."

E. VIRGINIA SMITH.  
 Winchester.

Justice Is Dead!  
 Justice is dead! The State is weeping!  
 Dead by the murderer's hand,  
 Justice is dead! Nay, nay, but sleep—  
 ing—  
 A chill sweeps o'er our land—  
 More deadly than winter's cold,  
 Or any blight of earth,  
 Caused by a deed most foul and bold,  
 That hell itself belched forth!  
 Be calm, Keep still. God yet the  
 same!  
 Virginia! Thy heart they bled,  
 Yet greater, See, Right forth conquer  
 shame!  
 Right rebels! This crime lies dead!  
 T. L. LOW.  
 Roanoke.

QUERIES & ANSWERS.

Profit and Loss.  
 If I buy ten papers at 2 cents each and sell at 5 cents each, what per cent of profit do I make? ANXIOUS.  
 Whether the transaction involve one or a thousand papers, the percentage of gain is the same. You clear 2 cents in an investment of 2 cents, or the profit is two-thirds of the capital. To find the percentage you multiply the gain by 100 and divide by the capital. 200 divided by 2 is 66 2-3, and your profit is 66 2-3 per cent on your investment.

Old Coins.  
 J. F. Mrs. W. N. R. Goode and J. C. Rogers send list of coins with nothing of premium value.

Postmasters.  
 Is there law or postal regulation obliging a postmaster of the third class to devote his entire time to his office? T. C. JOHNSTON.  
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